



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., 7th District

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, 3rd District

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

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For Immediate Release

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE DENIES VOICE OF THE PEOPLE ON TAXES

Scott Walker instead takes part in sales tax debate while forbidding taxpayers the opportunity

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, along with Supervisors Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairman of the Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee; Gerry Broderick, Chairman of the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee; and Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., released the following joint statement in response to the County Executive's refusal to address the issue of voter participation in an advisory referendum on providing property tax relief and increased funding for parks, mass transit and emergency medical services (EMS):

“Plain and simple, the voters should be heard. Whether you are for or against raising the sales tax to provide funding for property tax relief, parks, transit and EMS, you should be in favor of an advisory referendum on the issue. To be clear, the Board is **not** considering an increase in the sales tax at this time. In reality, we're looking at **letting the voters decide** the issue. While the County Executive has clearly expressed his opposition to enacting a *sales tax increase*, he is actually partaking in a debate that should occur through the referendum – a debate he wants to forbid through his veto. He has offered no reasons for opposing *voter input* through an advisory referendum, even though one possible outcome could support his position.”

“The east side of the Milwaukee County Courthouse (facing MacArthur Square) features the following phrase, etched in stone on the frieze across the top of the building: ‘VOX POPULI VOX DEI.’ Translated in English, it reminds us that, in a democracy, ‘The voice

of the people is the voice of god.’ The County Executive should stop for a moment and consider those words, written on the very building housing his office. He should not ignore the voice of the people.”

“Civics 101 teaches us the most effective public servants are those who listen to the public’s wishes. We encourage our fellow Supervisors on the County Board to override this attempt to ignore the wishes of the voters. Whatever those wishes may be, WE will listen.”

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will have an opportunity to consider the County Executive’s veto at its next meeting, Thursday July 24th, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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